

GOOD NEIGHBORLY NEWS

ISSUE 3

A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PUBLICATION

SUMMER - 2010

Block Captains:

Share this newsletter with your block participants and don't forget to sign up for **e-mailed crime alerts**.

To register, e-mail me at jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov and get details.

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Police Contacts:

City Website:
www.carlsbadca.gov

Emergency:
9 1 1

Non-emergency:
760-931-2197

Crime Statistic Hotline:
760-931-2201

Other Crime Statistics:
760-931-2279

Police Watch Commander
760-931-2115

Traffic Unit:
760-931-2290

Narcotics Unit:
760-931-2195

Records Division:
769-931-2119

Detective Division:
760-931-2145

Community Services:
760- 931-2177

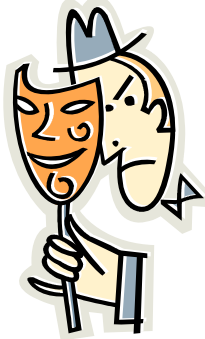
The mission of the Crime Prevention Unit is: The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

Let's do it together!

Kids and Strangers

As written by the National Crime Prevention Council at www.ncpc.org

Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighborhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behavior, and by taking a few precautions of their own.



children places they can go if they need help, such as local stores and restaurants and the homes of family friends in your neighborhood.

Recognizing and handling dangerous situations

Perhaps the most important way parents can protect their children is to teach them to be wary of potentially dangerous situations—this will help them when dealing with strangers as well as with known adults who may not have good intentions.

Who is a stranger?

A stranger is anyone that your family doesn't know well. It's common for children to think that "bad strangers" look scary, like the villains in cartoons. This is not true and it's dangerous. Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are dangerous or not just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don't make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help—whether they're lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed by a stranger—the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust.

Who are safe strangers?

Safe strangers are people children can ask for help. Police officers and firefighters are two examples of very recognizable safe strangers. Teachers, principals, and librarians are adults that are easy to recognize when they're at work.

You can help your children recognize safe strangers by pointing them out when you're out in your town. Also show your

Help children recognize the warning signs of suspicious behavior, such as when an adult:

1. Asks them to disobey their parents or do something without permission.
2. Asks them to keep a secret, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way.
3. Asks them for help. An adult should never ask a child for help. If one does teach your child to find a trusted adult right away to tell what happened.

You should also talk to your children about how they should handle dangerous situations. One way is to teach them "No. Go. Yell. Tell." If in a dangerous situations, kids should say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult what happened right away.

Make sure that your children know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a dangerous situation and to yell to keep themselves safe, even if they are indoors. It's good to practice this in different situations so that your children will feel confident in knowing know what to do.

Is Your Child Ready?

All children mature differently, so there is no precise age when they are ready to stay home alone. This makes the decision to leave children alone even harder for parents.

Many states have laws concerning the legal age when children can be left unsupervised, but there is no guarantee that when children reach this age they will be ready. However, there are questions parents can ask themselves to help determine if their children are ready.

Can your children

- Be trusted to go straight home after school or after playing at a neighbor's house?
- Easily use the telephone, locks, and kitchen appliances
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- Stay home alone without being afraid?
- Say their full name, address, and telephone number?

If you feel comfortable leaving your children home alone and feel that they are ready, discuss it with them and start practicing what they should and shouldn't do. Role play different scenarios to prepare them for anything that might happen when they are home alone.



Kids and Strangers (continued)

What Else Parents Can Do

In addition to teaching children how to recognize and handle dangerous situations and strangers, there are a few more things parents can do.

- **Know where your children are at all times.** Make it a rule that your children must ask permission or check in with you before going anywhere. Give your children your work and cell phone numbers so they can reach you at all times.
- **Point out safe places.** Show your children safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there's trouble.
- **Teach children to trust their instincts.** Explain that if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable, they should get away as fast as they can and tell an adult.
- **Teach your children to be assertive.** Make sure they know that it's okay to say no to an adult and to run away from adults in dangerous situations.
- **Encourage your children to play with others.** There's safety in numbers!

New Fraud Trend Emerges

Claims of being stranded in a foreign country swindle consumers out of thousands of dollars.

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a FBI partner, continues to receive reports of individuals' e-mail or social networking accounts being compromised and used in a social engineering scam to swindle consumers out of thousands of dollars. Pretending to be the victim, the hacker uses the victim's account to send a notice to their contacts. The notice claims the victim is in immediate need of money due to being robbed of their credit cards, passport, money, and cell phone; leaving them stranded in London or some other location.

Some claim they only have a few days to pay their hotel bill and promise to reimburse upon their return home. A sense of urgency to help their friend/contact may



cause the recipient to fail to validate the claim, increasing the likelihood of them falling for this scam.

If you receive a similar notice and are not sure it is a scam, you should always verify the information before sending any money.

If you have been a victim of this type of scam or any other Cyber crime, you can report it to the IC3 website at www.IC3.gov.

The IC3 complaint database links complaints for potential referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for case consideration. Complaint information is also used to identify emerging trends and patterns.

www.ARJIS.org

The Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) was created as a joint powers agency (JPA) to share information among justice agencies throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. ARJIS has evolved into a complex criminal justice enterprise network used by 71 local, state, and federal agencies in the two California counties that border Mexico.

ARJIS is used for tactical analysis, investigations, statistical information, and crime analysis. It promotes data sharing and cooperation at all levels for member agencies, from chiefs to officers to technical staff. ARJIS is now a division of SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments), which has enhanced opportunities at the federal and state level by providing advocacy services and enhancing funding opportunities.

What does this mean to you? Along with Carlsbad Police Department's "Crime Statistic Hotline" (760-931-2201) and the "Neighborhood Watch Email Alert Program" you have access to crime statistic information 24/7. Check it out.

You will find crime maps, crime statistics, Meghan's Law information, the 10 most wanted and other statistical information.